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CHATINO - ZAPOTEC OR ZAPOTECAN?

Leslie G. Pride.

Term paper from the tutorial on Zapotecan languages, held at the Torres Bodet Center of the Instituto Linguistico de Verano, Mitla, Oax., December-January, 1976.

Introduction

This paper is the outcome of some interviews made during a month's tutorial on Zapotecan languages, at the Torres Bodet Center. Investigators working in eight languages were interviewed: Zapotec of the Isthmus (Pickett and Alsop), Yatzachi Zapotec (Butler and Long), Guelavia Zapotec (Jones), S. Juan Mixtepec Zapotec (Reeck), Lachixio Zapotec (Persons), Texmolucan Zapotec (Speck), Testpec Chatino (Mardle) and Tataltepec Chatino (Pride). It was of particular interest to Chatino studies, in that the Lachixio and Texmolucan languages are the closest geographically to the Chatino area.

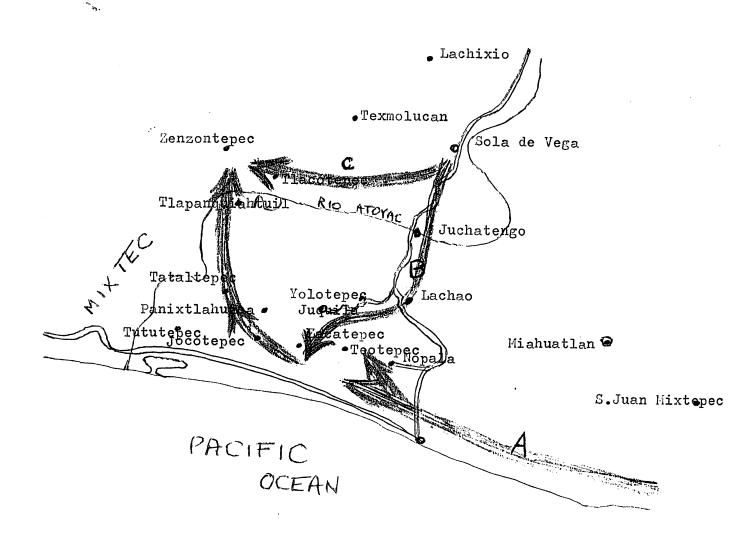
At attempt was made to identify similarities and differences between features (using this word in a non-technical sense) in these languages. It is probably the first such study ever made from the Chatino viewpoint. Previous studies have usually been made by Lapotec experts with little knowledge of Chatino. And so it probably reflects a bias towards Chatino. But then, the Chatino languages do have certain distinctive; identifying features. Not much about the syntax is reported in this paper. That would have required a much more exhaustive questionaire and list of clauses. Kitty Pride treated this in a separate paper for Pickett. A list of some cognates is appended.

It is fair to say that the Chatino languages are Zapotecan in origin. They have many features in common, and in perhaps 25% of the Zapotec lexicon - a study based on the Isthmus Zapotec dictionary - cognates could be found in Chatino. Such Mixtec cognates as can be found in Chatino are probably direct loans, rather than the parallel forms of related languages, and are much less frequent than the direct cognates with Zapotec.

There has been some speculation for a while about the historical roots of Chatino. From this paper, it would seem that the Isthmus language is closest to Chatino, followed by Lachixio and Guelavia. Therefore Chatino progenitors could have come from two directions: along the coast from Tehuantepec and the Isthmus, possible through the influence of the ancient kingdom of Tehuantepec (route A on the sketch map below), or from the direction of Sola de Vega and Lachixio, a natural emigration route. There is a deviant dialect of Chatino, characterized by fully expanded and vocalized syllables (as compared with the contracted forms of the Noppla/Panixtlahuaca area) running in a thin strip through the main Chatino area (Nop/Pan. above) from the road from Sola de Vega to the coast, via S.Juan Lachao, Yolotepec, Juquila and S. Marcos Zacatepec (route B). Immigrants may have come along this route - still used by pilgrims to the Juquila fiesta, and probably used

by early mestizo settlers in Juquila in the 18th and 19th centuries.

From Zacatepec, they may have gone round along the coast to Tataltepec and Tlapanalquiahuitl via Jocotepec. Some may have gone directly to the Tlacotepec/Zenzontepec area from Sola De vega (route C). Speck testifies that Texmolucan may be much more recent of settlement, being itself an emigration from a more inland area. That would explain why the Texmolucan language is not any more like Chatino than it is. It should also be noted that the northern boundaries of the Chatino area are much further south than Harvey claims ("Chatino and Papabuco in the Historical Sources", I.J.A.L., 1968, 38.288=9), probably not much further north than Juchatengo (today completely mestizo), and not embracing Lachixio (which might have been "Papabuco", but was certainly not a Chatino dialect) nor Sola de Vega nor what is today Texmolucan. Neither does the Chatino area include Amoltepec (which is a dialect of Mixtec), Zaniza (Zapotec), nor Santiago Minas (mestizo).



Some general considerations about the languages . Differences between Chatino and Zapotec.

1. Canonical shapes.

The patterns CVC and CCVC are the most common basic morpheme/word shapes in four of the languages (Guelavia, Mixtepec, Texmelucan and Yatzachi). Isthmus and Lachimio have a predilection for open endings, hence CVCV is common for them.

The only C closure in the Chatino languages is the glottal stop, hence the most common shapes are CVCV, CCV and CV. Glottal is a full phoneme in Chatino, but also occurs palatalized or labialized in medial position. Hence etically it is CV°CV, and this compares with San Miguel el Alto Mixtec which commonly has the pattern CV°CV as well as CVCV.

- 2. Fortis and Lenis Consonants. Neither Chatino languages report this contrast which is important in most of these Zapotec languages.
- 3. <u>Nasalization of vowels</u>. Nixtepec and Lachixio do not report this feature, and it is rare in the Isthmus, Guelavia and Tatzachi the latter it seems that vowels seem more nasalized before glottal). However, Texmolucan reports nasalization of all vowels, having a heavy functional load in the language, as in both Chatino languages.
- 4. <u>Vowel length</u>. The only language reporting contrastiveness in vowel length, besides the Chatino languages, is Lachixio. But in Chatino, this is a most important feature in the phonology.
- 5. <u>Tone</u>. Zapotec languages seem to employ two-pitch systems, with or without up or down glides, rather than a three-multi-system preferred by Chatino, in company with Mixtec, Amuzgo, Trique and some Chinantec languages. But tone is employed grammatically by the Chatino languages as in Zapotec to accompany aspect and person in the verbs.
- 6. Affixes. To denote Aspect. Chatino does not have the variety of aspect or voice affixes possessed by these Zapotec languages. The Chatino inventory of aspect (or voice) pre- and in-fixes lists: /ku-/, /s-/, /ty-//-y-/, /n-/, /-gu-/, /ka-/ and /#-/ combining in different ways, according to verb class, to form five aspects only. Causitive and passive(impersonal) are held to be distinct verb forms (or voices), not just aspects.

 Plural. Yatzachi and Isthmus have affixes to mark plural in both verbs and nouns. Lachixio, Texmelucan and Guelavia only report these for nouns.

Mixtepec does not report this feature, nor do the Chatino languages, which have no way of expressing plural except by a number or plural descriptive or a plural pronoun.

Person. Overt person markers on the singular tely possessed nouns (ie. pronouns as clitics) are optional in Chatino and in Lachixio, as in Nixtec.

- 6. 'Inner Feeling' verbs. Certain verbs, such as 'anger', 'thought', 'being embarrassed', 'being ashamed', 'believing' are expressed in the Zapotec languages by compounds involving the words 'heart' or 'liver'. Chatino has a variety of these also: 'love', 'insincerity', 'badness', or 'courage'. But the Chatino languages regularly use a particle, similar to one Longacre assures us occurs in Trique, and probably derived from an archaic form for 'heart' or 'liver'. (This may not be so archaic either. The Wardles' helper from Nopala reacted naively to this particle as meaning, in Spanish, 'heart', even though there is a more common word /free form for this). This particle, when added to certain verb stems, as also to nouns or descriptives functioning as statives, produces a whole extra variety of verbs with an 'inner feeling' content. The only Zapotec language to report something similar was Mixtepec, with the particle /zdo'o/.
- 7. Adverbs used in compound verbs. This is another most productive semantic area in Chatino using certain derived adverbs to follow regular verb stems, to increase the definition of action, or transitivity. This is something that only Yatzachi and Isthmus admit the possibility of, and it may not be quite the same there. These Chatino adverbs are derived from verbs in fact, they are the same as the basic root forms which do not otherwise occur in isolation, such as /ca'a/ from /nga'a/ 'is there', /yala/ from /ndyala/ 'arrive', /ti'i/ from /ndi'i/ 'is living there' (these items are taken from Tataltepec data), and they combine with other verbs to form verbs like /nxñi ca'a/ 'stick firm on (ship on sand)', /ndi'i/ yala/ 'is there-arrived,ie. is gathered there (water in a pool)'. See other note on compound verbs under Similarities, no.5.

Similarities between Chatino and Zapotec.

1. Glottal stop. This feature is common to all Zapotec and Chatino languages. When clause <u>final</u>, in some Napotec languages (eg. Isthmus), it is predictable and therefore sub-phonemic. In Chatino it functions as a full phoneme on the word level, ie. is a feature of the word but not of the clause. Except that, in the local pronunciation of Spanish, sentences always end with a glottal.

As in Zapotec, glottal frequently occurs word medial between vowels, (for 7y-, 7w- see note on Differences, no.1). In Zapotec this is often interpreted as laryngealization (as in Texmelucan, Yatzachi and Isthmus), and is usually just one syllable, but in Chatino V7V is always across a syllable boundary. Guelavia distinguishes laryngealization from V7V. This may be just a reverse view of the contrast observed in Texmelucan, Yatzachi and Mixtepec between $\hat{V}\hat{V}$ and $\hat{V}\hat{V}$. Lachixio interprets the feature as a 7, but is uncertain as yet. Texmelucan interprets it as a feature of the vowel, not as a consonant.

- 2. Syllabic consonants. Three of the Zapotec languages (Mixtepec in quantity Yatzachi and Guelavia to a lesser extent) report some syllabic consonants. Mixtepec reckons one-third of its consonant inventory can be syllabic. Texmelucan and Lachixio report almost none. Nopala Chatino is not certain about interpretation yet, but they are frequent in Tataltepec. Almost all initial consonants of a cluster of two or more are syllabic. Apart from a noticeable pitch difference, this made for a more economical analysis.
- And the sweethers as syllable, and count be put into the part of an along when tones are 3. Preceding nasals. Nearly half the words in the Chatino languages begin with /n-/. It can precede a variety of consonants: ch, d, dy, g, gw, j, s, t, x. Besides being a verb prefix ('non-future'), it is common in other word classes. In all the Zapotec languages interviewed, /n-/ is a regular feature, frequently marking completive aspect, /ng-/, and, in the 3 case of Mixtepec, marking 'unreal' and 'stative' aspects as well as a variety of nouns. In Mixtec, there appears to be a more limited use of initial /n-/, mainly before /nd-/. In /Z stress is on hood syllable in verbs and processed from the syllable of a compound root. Nouns of more than one syllable have these on first syllable if not compounds.

Eapotec languages in having the stressed syllable final in the word. This is predictable in Chatino. Only in Isthmus is a contrast of stress reported between ultimate and penultimate syllables.

- 5. First person singular. Chatino uses nasalization plus tone ± vowel length to indicate first person singular on unmarked verb and noun stems, as do Texmelucan and Isthmus.
- 6. Nominalizer before descriptives. Languages other than Isthmus do not seem to have a prefix /na-/ before descriptives, or, if they do, it is said to be different (Mixtepec), or mainty before colors (Guelavia) or a different particle altogether (Yatzachi). Lachixio was uncertain, and Texmelucan, while pointing out that the /na-/ is Lachixio 'yellow' was suspicious, has a post-posed nominalizer. Chatino /naa/ before statives and descriptives, and, in fact, verb stems in general, is common in an affirmative or delieative sense.

7. Use of 'do' verb in forming compounds.

As in Chatino, Suni/ Jun/ Juun/ Jaone' etc. are used with other adverb or descriptive stems to form complex verbs, with the person marker varying position, dependent on verb class, between mid-phrase-after-initial-verb and end-of-phrase or both. This is a useful way, also, of incorporating loamed Spanish verbs. It may be that in sub-conscious Chatino thinking, they react to the Spanish infinitive as if it were an adverbial form of the verb.

 $oldsymbol{e}_{ ext{This}}$ usage parallels the compound verbs described in Differences, no.6.

8. <u>Sentence-level features.</u> Negations and questions are handled similarly. <u>Negation.</u> All these Zapotec and Chatino languages mark this by an initial negative marker. Mixtepec also has a marker at the end. Chatino also has a falling intonation.

Questions. Yatzachi, Guelavia, Mixtepec and Tataltepec Chatino have an initial question marker. Lachixio puts the marker at the end. Texmelucan and Nopala Chatino have one both at the beginning and at the end of the clause. All except Texmelucan have a falling intonation.

List of cognates.

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A study of the Isthmus Zapotec dictionary revealed that a proportion of 1 in 4 (25%) of the entries would probably be classed as cognates in some way. Some words, such as 'man', 'woman', 'fire' or 'wood' are obvious. Others are less obvious: 'sing', 'lend', 'run', 'wowal' or 'world'.

Some require a certain amount of ingenuity to predict the stages of phonological development: eg. 'bičuga/Zap., /skua'/Chat. 'shell'; /bijigf/Zap. /ngwiyu'/Chat. 'spider'; /bigu/Zap. /nku/Chat. 'tortoise'; /binni/Zap. /nternyati/Chat.'gente'; /kuba/Zap. /skua/Chat. 'maza'; /biziaa/Zap. /ndiyaa/Chat.'cacao'; /duba/Zap. /yaa/Chat. 'maguey, nopal'. Finally, others have a certain similarity of form and use, but it seems impossible to predict their phonological development, eg.'day', 'year', 'night', 'tortilla', 'skin'.

No attempt is made to list here all the cognates found, or to make a detailed study of their phonological relationships. That is for the experts to do. But the items on the following list of cognates were selected:

- (i) As being obvious cognates with Isthmus Zapotec.
- (ii) As more 'universal' words, eg. 'wood', 'world', 'ground', 'house', 'water', 'trail' etc. whether or not these words are cognates.
- (iii) To represent most classes of words.
- (iv)To include some compound nouns (ie. N + N), to observe compounding,

Because of consideration no.(i), comparison is weighted in favor of the Isthmus language. Lachixio and Guelavía have a high proportion of close cognates, but Lachixio follows the Isthmus in having the next-to-highest proportion of more nearly identical forms, especially in the numerals. Out of a total of 86 items listed, only 18 correspond or almost do so right across the board. They are listed in order of correspondence: the forms with the most number of correspondences first.

Note: The data from Nopala Chatino was actually recorded by a speaker from the village of Cerro del Aire, peopled by emigrants from the older town of Teotepec, but there are only minimal differences with Nopala.

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Boas, Franz. (1913) Notes on the Chatino language of Mexico. American Anthropologist ns. 15. 78-86.

"While engaged in the investigation of the Mexican dialect of Pochutla, Oarner, Mexico, for The International School of american archaeology and Ethnology, & had the opportunity to spend a few home with a Chatino, and collected a little material which may be of interest, because it shows definitely That Chatino is a remote branch of The Zapotecan Family and paralund The very remarkable phonetics of that group of languages ... not sufficient material ... confine myself to a few disconnected remarks.

The language is spoken only in The district of Juquida. It is called by The people Themselver Eastingonic. [202 tingo]. Str. Spoken according to my informant, Ezéquiel Vasquez, in the dollowing billages:

first Dialect.

* Juquila

+ Yaitepec * Temaxcaltopee

* Teoper

* Cerixtla

* Tiltepec

* Nopala

* San Gabriel Mixtepec

* Lachao (San Juan).

* y olotepec (5. Ma. yolotepec)

* malteper (s. Ma.)

* Expantepee (In Francisco)

*-Quiahije (sn. Juan)

* Ixtapan (Sk. Ma)

* Zacatepec

* Panix Hahuaca (In. Mignel)

Tepenix Halmaca.

Second Dider

Tataltepee

Their Dialect

Zenzontepec. *Tlapanal quiahuil Tlacotopec

places from De. antonio Peñafiel - División Territorial de la Republica Mexicana, Mexico. 3 Scoretaria de Tomento. 1904 Note -

Boas gathered some Charino data, while doing field work on Abhutle lytee. He admondedges the historical setting in his 1913 article in the american anthropologier. He did not postulate any connection between Chatino and Pochutta Aztec, probably because of The more obvious glastic relation with Zapotec which was still obscure enough to ment attention in The artide. Though Boar says nothing about stress placement in Chatha, The vocabulary items in his word live of approx. 175- items are written with and word-final stress orcept for seven items, five of which are morphologically complex and the syllable after The stressed syllable can be assumed to be a separate word; Two are verbe which have the vowel -i after the stressed explable and this -i may possibly by a syllable final y and not a post-stress syllable.

Or Note. Boas in his article on Chatrus, written fromdata gathered at the same time as his field work on Pochutha algae, down focuse primarily on the fact That Chatino is a phonetically divergent from of Zajertee. He does not say any thing about stress placement in Chatino, though his transcription shows it to be on the word-final seyllable almost everywhere.

Neither did it occur to him that the structure of the regliable in Chatro had anything in common with that in Pochutla Oxtec.

Boer-Chatrino - 2-

Entimio Perez. 1888 Recuerdos Historicus del Episcopado Odragnezo, Odraca.

Juquila

* 5 Mignel Panisthchuaca

* Ste. Ma. Ixtapan

* S. Juan Quiahije

+ S. Fco. Expantopee

* Sh. Ma. Mialtepec

* Sta. Ma. Yolultopee

* S. Juan Lachas

Sa Pedro Juchatenzo

Trapiche de Saura ana Trapiche de Soldad

Teojomulco

J. Lorenzo

Santiergo

Santiago Minas

Sn. Jacinto (tlacotepee?)

* Tlapanal quiahuil

Juxtlahuaca

apalvapan

Sn. Martin

Su. Pedro

Santrago Jicayam

5. Mignel Eloteper

S. Cristobal

5. Juan.

Yaitepee

*Nopala

* Cuixtle

* tiltepee

* 5. Gabriel (Mixtepee)

S. Pedro

* Tamaycultegec

+ Vaitepic

* Zacatepec.

Boas - Chatrino - 3 -

Three times - high - E glotted's top

low (minorbul)

Boan liste Japotee cognater for 55 words out of his list of 175 words.

esp. number of pronounce are cognate.

not especially cognete.

Says nothing about stress placement, but on individual

Vocabulary items it is nearly always written or The last syllable.

Very Sew exceptions.

all men - Kiliga E K.yu (two work)

Ling ear dia ga (morpholograll compley)

my ear dia ga (phram)

my hand had kiton's ke (phram)

my hand na yas (phram)

to have yu'i - ver. (ener in i)

how in which one lives. naà'c ki (phram)

to kill ho'i & ver- (ener in i).

also in paradigme. Bone in places has stress of the penult we can assume that There are morphologically complex and
The item after the stress is an idependent work.

Separate.